

# Ofsted publishes science research review – the first in a series of subject reviews

News story

Ofsted has today published the first review in a new series looking at what makes for a high-quality education in different subjects across the curriculum.



Today's review focuses on [science](#). It explores a range of research and evidence to identify factors that can influence the quality of science education in schools in England. It also highlights some of the barriers that prevent their implementation.

The review recognises that there is no one way of achieving a high-quality science education. Rather, it considers a number of key principles that can play a central role in shaping the quality of school science.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman said:

I'm really pleased to publish our science subject review today. This is the first in a series of subject reviews we will publish over the coming months, which will inform our thinking about what makes a high-quality subject education in schools.

The science research review was planned before the COVID-19 pandemic began, but its publication is timely. As part of education recovery, schools will need to think carefully about what content to prioritise and how best to teach it.

We hope that the principles identified in this review will be helpful as science subject leaders plan and adapt their curriculums.

In the review, we identified a number of principles that literature suggests can contribute to high-quality science education. These principles include the importance of:

- planning the science curriculum so that pupils build knowledge of key concepts and the relationships between them over many years; this prevents pupils from seeing science as a list of isolated facts
- pupils remembering long-term the content that has been taught; this is because building domain-specific knowledge leads to expertise
- explicitly teaching pupils the concepts and procedures needed to work scientifically
- starting curriculum planning right from the early years by introducing pupils to wide-ranging vocabulary to describe the natural world (these words should not be overly technical)
- teachers giving clear explanations that build on what pupils already know and explicitly focus pupils' attention on the content being learned
- making sure practical work has a clear purpose, forms part of a wider teaching sequence and takes place only when pupils have enough prior knowledge to learn from the activity
- science teachers and technicians having access to regular, high-quality subject-specific continuous professional development (CPD); this is especially important given that many science teachers are teaching outside of their subject specialism

Our next step in this project will be to look at how science is being taught in schools. On inspection, we will use our subject deep-dive methodology to gather rich evidence on the quality of science education. We will publish a report in spring 2022 to share what we have learned with schools, parents and policymakers.

To find out more about Ofsted's curriculum work, read the [principles behind the research reviews and subject reports](#).

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## [Animal medicine seizure notice: Border Force, Gatwick Airport](#)

News story

Details of seizure notice served following a routine passenger search by Border Force, Gatwick Airport.



The following veterinary medicines were found during a routine passenger search by Border Force at Gatwick Airport. The products were subsequently seized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

- 6 x Estrombol
- 4 x Dexa 40
- 5 x Flunix Deltavet
- 3 x Equicistan
- 2 x Crema 6A
- 2 x Bio – Enzimyx

These products are intended for use in horses and are not authorised veterinary medicines in the UK. The majority were injectable products and included anti-inflammatories, steroids and antibiotics.

The medicines were seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013

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## [WTO Dispute Settlement Body: UK statement](#)

World news story

The statement was delivered during Agenda item 7: Appellate Body Appointments – Proposal by Various Members



The WTO is headquartered in Geneva

Thank you, Chair.

The United Kingdom continues its support for this proposal for the launch of the selection processes.

The United Kingdom supports a fully functioning dispute settlement system as the best means of enforcing the rules we have negotiated. The WTO dispute settlement system is vital in upholding the rights of Members – ensuring the fair resolution of disagreements and preventing recourse to unilateral measures.

We welcomed the call of the Director General, in her General Council remarks last month, for a road map towards reform and a work programme to achieve this which can be endorsed at this year's Ministerial Conference. The United Kingdom stands ready to engage with all Members in the important discussions to come, to find common ground and solutions on dispute settlement reform.

Thank-you.

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## [Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to France: Menna Rawlings](#)

Press release

Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to France in succession to The Rt Hon the Lord Llewellyn of Steep OBE.



Menna Rawlings CMG

Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the French Republic in succession to The Rt Hon the Lord Llewellyn of Steep OBE who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mrs Rawlings will take up her appointment during Summer 2021.

## Curriculum vitae

Full name: Menna Rawlings

Year	Role
2019 to 2020	FCO, Director General, Economic and Global Issues
2015 to 2019	Canberra, British High Commissioner
2011 to 2014	FCO, Director, Human Resources
2008 to 2011	Washington, Counsellor (Corporate Services USA) and HM Consul General
2005 to 2008	Accra, Deputy High Commissioner and Head of Political Section (also accredited to Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso and Niger)
2005	FCO, Africa Directorate (G8/Africa)
2004	Pre-posting training (including French language training)
2002 to 2004	FCO, Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary
1998 to 2002	Tel Aviv, Head of Political Section
1998	Pre-posting training (including Hebrew language training)
1996 to 1998	FCO, Press Officer
1993 to 1996	Nairobi, Second Secretary (Political/Economic)
1991 to 1993	Brussels, Third later Second Secretary (Institutions) UK Permanent Representation to the EU
1990 to 1991	Brussels, European Commission, Stagiaire
1989 to 1990	FCO, European Community Department (Internal)
1989	Joined FCO

## Further information – Newsdesk

All the latest news is available on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office page of the gov.uk website at: [www.gov.uk/fcdo](http://www.gov.uk/fcdo)

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# Best of British business celebrated as Queen's Awards for Enterprise winners revealed

- 205 winners announced in the Queen's Awards for Enterprise – the UK's most prestigious business awards
- themed this year on Promoting Opportunity through Social Mobility, 18 have won awards in this category for helping disadvantaged people in their communities
- these include a 173-year-old mattress making company in Aberdeen, a low carbon manufacturer in south Wales and a designer and maker of cutting-edge furniture exporting globally from Belfast

The winners of the 2021 Queen's Awards for Enterprise have been announced today (29 April), celebrating the achievements of UK businesses following an incredibly challenging year.

This year, 205 businesses representing every part of the United Kingdom and a diverse range of sectors have been recognised by Her Majesty The Queen as among the best in the country.

The focus of this year's awards is on Promoting Opportunity through Social Mobility, an especially important theme given the challenges that have been faced through the pandemic, with businesses playing a valuable role in their local communities.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

The past year has been a tough time for many businesses across the UK, which is why it is more important than ever to celebrate the achievements of our wealth creators and recognise the contributions they make to our communities.

In the last 12 months, British businesses showed the entrepreneurial spirit that this country is renowned for, continuing to drive social mobility, find new markets to export to and produce innovative products and services.

I congratulate this year's winners and I wish every business that applied for an award this year every success in the future as we build back better from the pandemic.

Among this year's winners are:

- Luminary Bakery, a London-based baking business and café established in 2014 to help women in deprived areas of the capital through a range of

- issues including long-term unemployment and domestic abuse. The organisation offers a safe and professional environment where women can use baking as a tool to gain skills and recover their independence
- the Community Shop in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. This is a local social enterprise offering surplus food from big chain shops and supermarkets to disadvantaged customers at discounted prices. They have been recognised this year for their work in promoting opportunity within their community, providing employment and training opportunities to disadvantaged local people
  - Glencraft Mattresses, a Scottish mattress maker based in Aberdeen for over 170 years. Glencraft uses sustainable, ethically sourced materials to make mattresses, and has been recognised for its important role in providing opportunities to local people, many of them previously unemployed. The company has a Royal Warrant and has been supplying mattresses to the Royal Family for 4 generations
  - Cenin Holdings, a company based near Bridgend in south Wales which makes low carbon construction products including cement, fly ashes and ground stabilisation products. They mostly use sustainable products and renewable energy generated on-site and have worked with Cardiff University's SOLCER house project, developing cutting edge green energy. Cenin have been recognised with a Queen's Award for Sustainable Development as a small local business with an outstanding impact on cutting emissions, pioneering low carbon manufacturing and environmental sustainability
  - Environmental Street Furniture (ESF), a designer and maker of innovative, high-quality furniture in Northern Ireland based in Belfast which exports to 26 countries around the world and has been recognised in the International Trade category. ESF was established in 1998 and uses technology, creativity and modern materials to produce furniture for outdoor spaces for private homes, street displays and brands which has helped boost British exports and earned the company a global reputation for excellence

The awards were created following the recommendation of a committee chaired by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in 1965. The first awards, originally known as the Queen's Awards to Industry, were made the following year.

This year's Queen's Awards for Enterprise are given for outstanding achievement in:

- innovation
- international trade
- sustainable development
- promoting opportunity (through social mobility)

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants will be presenting the Awards to businesses locally throughout the year.

Eligible businesses are free to apply for one or more categories. The winners pass a robust assessment process, judged by senior officials in Whitehall and experts from industry, academia and the third sector.

On that basis, each year, the winners of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are recommended by the Prime Minister.

Additional information:

- winners are permitted to fly The Queen's Awards flag at their main office and use the emblem on their marketing materials
- winners are also given a Grant of Appointment (an official certificate) and a commemorative crystal trophy
- the awards are valid for 5 years

<b>Region</b>	<b>Promoting Opportunity winners</b>	<b>Sustainable Development winners</b>	<b>Innovation winners</b>	<b>International Trade winners</b>	<b>Total winners</b>
London	6	3	7	22	38
South East	1	2	7	12	22
South West	2	2	1	14	19
West Midlands	2	1	2	12	17
East Midlands	0	1	6	8	15
North West	0	2	6	9	17
Yorkshire & Humber	4	1	4	7	16
Wales	0	1	0	5	6
North East	1	2	3	5	11
Scotland	2	2	1	8	13
Northern Ireland	0	0	1	4	5
East Anglia	0	0	10	16	26

[Details of the winners are published on the London Gazette](#)